

## **June 17, 2009 - Special Town Council Meeting**

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Town Hall on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 6:04 P.M.**

**Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding**

**Vice Chairman Richard Cambra**

**Councillor Frank A. Bozyan**

**Councillor M. Theresa Santos**

**Councillor Robert J. Sylvia**

**Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present**

**Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr., Absent**

**POSTED – June 10, 2009**

**Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk**

**Town of Middletown**

**Town Hall – 350 East Main Road**

**Middletown, Rhode Island 02842**

**Dear Mrs. Marshall:**

**Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:**

## **1. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Town of Middletown for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

## **2. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Parks and Recreation Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

## **3. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

#### **4. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

##### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenue of the Recycling Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

**Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

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**Christopher T. Semonelli,**

**President**

**Middletown Town Council**

**cc:**

**Town Council**

**Town Administrator**

**Senior Center**

**Town Solicitor**

**Police Dept.**

**Finance Director**

**Fire Dept.**

**Public Library**

**Public Works**

**Tax Assessor**

**Building Inspector**

**Town Planner**

**IT Director**

**Parks/Recreation**

**Town Engineer**

**Human Resource Director**

**School Department**

**This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.**

**Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Business Manager Catherine McLeish, School Committee Chair Michael Crowley, Members Liana Ferreira Fenton, William O'Connell and Kellie DiPalma.**

## **1. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Town of Middletown for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Council President Semonelli noted the Council has worked with the administration since being elected on this budget. A budget committee was formed which included himself, Councillor Bozyan, Councillor Sylvia and Town Administrator Shawn Brown. The committee met every two weeks. The School Department had a budget group which included Council representative.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown addressed the Council noting that**

currently, Rhode Island has been impacted with an economic slowdown. Both the Town and School have tried to budget to reality being uncertain of what revenue will be received from the state. This budget contains a 2% tax increase, increasing residential tax rate by .26 and commercial rate by .34. The Town and School are facing many issues which are negatively impacting the operating budgets.

School Committee Chair Michael Crowley noted the preparation of this budget was difficult due to the unknown factors of state aid and stimulus monies that will be received by the Town.

Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, reviewed Town budgets from previous years noting a large reserve fund balance. Mr. Viveiros requests the Council postpone Town projects and have a zero percent tax increase this year. Mr. Viveiros questioned the decrease of School department salaries in this budget.

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, responding to Mr. Viveiros noted eliminations to many positions within the school department.



**Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Mr. Viveiros referred to Town ordinance 33.18 Fund Balance Policy, noting the Council has implemented strong financial policies. The fund balance is not used to fund operations.**

**Payson Fugitt, 1 Kent Road, addressed the Council questioning student enrollment, the cost to educate each student and special education.**

**Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, responding to Mr. Fugitt noted that there are 2356 students, the cost per student is \$14,203 and there are 447 special education students within the schools.**

**Mary Alice Huggins, 1 Gray Craig Road, addressed the Council questioning how many firefighters are employed, how much money the school spends yearly on sports, art and music programs. Ms. Huggins suggested that the Town should investigate creative ways to raise money including speed boxes.**

**Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, responding to Ms. Huggins noted that the Town spends approximately \$200,000. for sports and spends more on fine arts and music.**

**Stacy McBride, 66 Atlantic Drive, expressed concern with the closing of John F. Kennedy School and the elimination of programs within the schools.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said FY10 General Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading.**

## **2. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Parks and Recreation Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the proposed Parks & Recreation budget is \$1,366,606, an increase of \$61,530 or 4.71% over the current year budget. Mr. Brown noted that there is an increase in beach fees, increase in campground fees, staffing is level from last year, the after school program has been eliminated; however, the summer recreation program will continue.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said FY10 Parks and Recreation Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading.**

### **3. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

#### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the sewer rate will remain the same, there is no Inflow & Infiltration charge, and there is an increase of the Newport Meter Read Charge, due to the addition of**

**Middletown's share of the cost of the Radio Read Meter project.**

**Antone Vivieros, 110 Indian Hill Road, questioned the sewer holding tanks at the hotels located by the beach and if the Town is able to use the tanks in the case of sewer overflows.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Mr. Viveiros noted that the hotel tanks are only for hotel use.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said FY10 Sewer Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading.**

#### **4. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

##### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenue of the Refuse and Recycling Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the Refuse and Recycling Fund budget is \$1,239,780, a decrease of \$103,600 or 7.7% from the current budget. Mr. Brown noted that the budget is based on the existing \$50. annual participation fee, an increase in the bag fee, budget includes PAYT grant from RI Resource Recovery, reduction in the cost of Waste Management contract, an appropriation from the CIP and an appropriation from the General Fund.**

**Councillor Sylvia noted that he does not support this budget.**

**Gladys Silveira, 132 Peckham Lane, expressed concern that the Refuse and Recycling program is not mandatory and would be willing to pay more for participation in the program.**

**Antone Vivieros, 110 Indian Hill Road, suggests raising the bag fee, the Town make recycling mandatory and the Town take-over the trash system using the low bidder.**

**Paul Lamond, 2 Porter Road, noted his support for the PAYT program.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown suggests the bag rate remain the same and increase the permit fee.**

**Payson Fugitt, 1 Kent Road, addressed the Council noting that he does not support the PAYT program explaining that he feels the program operates inefficiently.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted to receive said FY10 Refuse and Recycling Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading; Council President Semonelli, Vice Chairman Cambra, Councillor Bozyan, Councillor Santos and Councillor VonVillas voted YES; Councillor Sylvia voted NO to said motion.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:53 P.M.**

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**Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC**

**Council Clerk**

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